Ten Bad Popes

ProMom

Bad Apples. Every family has some. Every town, every country, every faith, every bloodline. It happens. But what happens when a Bad Apple is able to ascend to one of the most powerful seats of power in the world? Here's a list of the ten biggest Bad Apples to ever lead the Holy Roman Church.

Stephen VII(Pope from 896 - 897)

Stephen's sworn enemy was his predecessor to the Fisherman's Ring, Formosus. Whatever Formosus had done to so enrage his successor isn't completely clear, but dear Pope Stephen had his dead body dug up and put on trial for "coveting the papal throne." Being found guilty (of course), the deceased was stripped, had its 3 fingers, used for bestowing blessings, cut off, and the body dumped in the Tiber River. Stephen got his, though. He was later imprisoned and strangled to death.

Urban II(Pope from 1088 - 1099)

At the time of his papacy, many Catholic priests were married (even though they weren't supposed to be). Urban was so outraged that he made a decree that all priests who were married or found to not be celibate be imprisoned forever (for the good of their eternal souls). That wasn't enough to satisfy Urban though. After imprisoning the defrocked clergymen he had their wives and children sold in to slavery! I guess he needed to find a way to finance all of those prisons holding the lustful priests to save their poor, sinful, souls. Fortunately he wasn't too busy with horny priests to ignore politics, though. Pope Urban II also took the time to start the First Crusade in 1095.

Gregory IX(Pope from 1227 - 1241)

This guy apparently loved bonfires. He started the inquisition of heretics (anyone not a strict and observant Catholic who could prove it) in 1231.

Sixtus IV(Pope from 1471 - 1484)

Sixtus didn't waste any time taking advantage of his new position. I'll bet the word "nepotism" was invented just for him. Before the white smoke even had time to clear he made two of his nephews Cardinals and spent the rest of his reign

throwing money and titles at pretty much everyone else he happened to be related to. To finance his whale status he brilliantly sold licenses for brothels in Rome, instituted a tax on priests who kept mistresses, and came up with the best scam ever in history - selling indulgences for the dead to their grieving loved ones.

Innocent VIII(Pope from 1484 - 1492)

Kind of cool, in a way. Innocent VIII was the first pope ever to openly acknowledge his mistress and illegitimate children. He spent his days building a dynasty by marrying his kiddos off to wealthy families and using the throne of St. Peter to bestow upon them money, titles, and land. Family man that he was, he even made his 13-year-old grandson a cardinal. His papal bull Summis desiderantes of 1484 allowed him to indulge his pyromaniac and torture fantasies by starting the Inquisition against witches.

Alexander VI(Pope from 1492 - 1503)

The infamous Mr. Borgia was possibly the most wicked and corrupt pope in history. Or maybe he was just misunderstood. He was trained in the ways of the family business from a young age. His uncle Alfonso (Pope Calixtus III) bestowed powerful church positions upon him while he was still in his teens and then a cardinal at 25. Building upon his cardinalship he worked his way up to the office of vice chancellor of the Roman Church and amassing a great personal fortune in the process. He bribed his way to St. Peter's - appointing anyone he could get in his pocket to cardinal to vote for him. Continuing on the family tradition, he also appointed his son and the teenage brother of his mistress as cardinals (strength in numbers you know). While enjoying the office of pope he also enjoyed an active sex life, was suspected of arranging murders of his rivals and indulging in orgies (hey, when in Rome...) and managed to father seven children. Being a model father of the times, his poor daughter, Lucrezia, got married off three times to help build alliances and when one of those marriage alliances went sour (to a guy she really liked), the pope/daddy/evil father-in-law had him stabbed to death.

Leo X (Pope from 1513 - 1521)

Louis XIV had nothing on this man. Extravagant to the max, his lavish spending managed to bankrupt the papacy in just two short years. Once he realized that he was broke, he spent the rest of his time at St. Peter's pawning off palace furnishings and licensing more brothel's to keep the party going. Fat, sweaty, and effeminate, on the plus side he was known to be very kind, jolly, and a big

supporter of charities and the arts. Even so, it was Leo's lifestyle that encouraged an obscure man named Marin Luther to write 95 Thesis and nail them up on a church door in Wittenburg. Oops, glad you had fun, Leo. Sorry about the whole "starting of the reformation" thing.

Paul III (Pope from 1534 - 1549)

Remember our pal Alexander VI? He had a lovely mistress named Guilia who repaid her favors by making her brother, Paul, a cardinal. One thing led to another and before long, Paul himself got to be pope too. The first order of business for the new pope was to make his 14 and 16 year old grandsons cardinals too - why mess with tradition? Basically a good guy who enjoyed the occasional romp with a saucy lass, he became famous for just one thing - excommunicating Henry VIII of England after he divorced Catherine of Aragon in order to shack up with his own saucy lass, Anne Boleyn.

Julius III (Pope from 1550 - 1555)

A perfectly well-behaved pope as compared to the company he's in on this list, Julius was a pretty cool guy. He kept up the grand old tradition of nepotism, loved a good (and big) meal, enjoyed gambling a bit too much, and generally just liked having a good time. Unfortunately for this frat rat, he's gone down in history for cruising the gay scene in Parma where he fell in love with a stunningly attractive 17-year-old boy. And made him a cardinal. Of course.

Pious XII (Pope from 1939 - 1958)

Scroll to Continue

Favorite drinking buddy of fascist leaders everywhere, Eugenio Pacelli was nicknamed "Hitler's Pope." In his quest to insure papal absolutism in Italy he buddied up to Hitler and Mussolini. Pious was a noted anti-Semite and racist, which is sad because he was one of the few people with enough political power at the time to have possibly changed the course of history.

Faraz on May 23, 2015:

Much has been mentioned above.. Briefly.. I can say that Jesus did not ordered to practice celibacy.. Nor early fathers did.even Peter did not do. Paul said that he had no order of jesus about this..he himself had two opposite beliefs. In fifth

century church adopted this dogma as church's official belief which had no firm basis.. Many church fathers did bad things but no catholic will accept this out of their belind believe. When any religious community adoptes beliefs other than which are told by their founder same thing happens.

Jesse on July 01, 2014:

Lutherans dont have a supreme leader? Always about money?

Its amazing how a tiny bit of information can be knowledge in one person, yet ignorance in another.

Maybe find an educational source other than the internet. ..just sayin

BeenieNiel Masunga on June 12, 2014:

whatever it can be said,human being is.....

pope alexandre 2013 on April 07, 2013:

that's true

Sir Roricon on March 24, 2013:

Hahah, lookit them go! x3

The Pope is in a sense like any other leader, in which he can make poor decisions and be caught up in scandals. Then again, one must consider the fact that Lutherans don't have one supreme leader, yet are a highly capable organization... food for thought? o.O

Joe on February 12, 2013:

The Catholic hierarcy has always been about money, power, and control; nothing else. They tell us how to live moral lives whan they for the most part are nothing more than amoral parasites

Kecharitomine on July 26, 2012:

Jesus Christ was God (Jn 1vs1) born of a Jew, Catholics do not treat Jesus as an ordinary make, but as begotten not made. The reason we receive His most precious body and blood is because it is the centre of our liturgy. and on what basis would He not get what He gives (His body and blood), if we would imagine

Jesus as a sinner at anypoint our faith would be futile

JP on June 09, 2012:

In regards to Archangel777Catholic comment...

Wasn't Jesus Christ a Jewish man?

He would not be allowed to receive his own body and blood in the Catholic Church today.

Chuck on May 26, 2012:

I suspect ProMom has both an agenda and an axe to grind.

Kecharitomine on May 24, 2012:

JUST TO ADD, The list here of bad popes is somehow to me questionable, that's why there's a debate, as a Catholic, the following are the popes who were totally bad 'the throne of Peter being ascended by some demons' (GOD FORGIVE ME FOR THIS SENSITIVE STATEMENT):

Pope Stephen VI (896–897),

Pope John XII (955–964),

Pope Benedict IX (1032–1044, 1045, 1047–1048),

Pope Boniface VIII (1294–1303),

Pope Urban VI (1378–1389),

Pope Alexander VI (1492–1503

Pope Leo X (1513–1521),

Pope Clement VII (1523–1534),

I personally think Protestantism brought a wake up call to the Church (I also believe it was an act of God), because since its beginning in the 16th century, after that we never had a bad pope, but I don't deny that some had small Topsy-turvies which need/ed some few blows (Lk12:48) during purgation

Kecharitomine on May 22, 2012:

Well, for those who will read I wish them to enjoy these views, but above all I pray for them to understand, I thank some people who have highlighted a little on Catholic faith and I'd like to add a little more on some guys who will feel that their comments were outstanding as no one tried to shed some light to them.

1. Pope is not God or a god to be worshiped, instead he is an indication to Church's oneness (Jn17:21) chosen by Christ good or bad (Jn15:16)just as He choose Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

2. the name Pope means 'father'(1Cor4:15) if the title was inappropriate, then the scripture is not reliable. 1Jn2:12, John addresses the congregation as 'my children' (be careful of engineered bible versions to suit one's idea), and hence Pope and father as for priests differ because of their religious rank and duty

3. the term Holy father, then denotes the Holy seat of Peter (Mt 18:16)which I surely tell u the hell of WW2 didn't even put a hand though we lost many lives, but papacy is figuratively the most recognised structural leader (earthly)of Christianity.

4. Catholics are not known for attacking other churches (at most), but they are good defenders of their faith, as they are not only a prey to the devil (I mean fallen Catholics and unrepentant) but attacked by fellow Christians. Catholic Church may possibly be the only church in the world that prays for everyone with a uniform intention of bringing peace in the world in every Rosary they say reminding people that we are in the 'valley of tears' (intentions introduced by Bl. PJ2)WHY? Because Catholics do not necessarily seek to be loved by humans, but have to be the first to love (Jn13:34-35)even if we're not loved (Jn15:18)

5. If pope speaks against the world's policies today, some reject him as a spiritual leader and associate him with politics and if he doesn't comment on any issue, they associate him with evil and label him the stirrer of such pathetic world things

6. This must be common guys, some misunderstand Catholicism, we worship God through Christ, Mary we honour as mother of God and the Catholic church and Eastern Orthodox are proberbly only churches who follow this truth in the bible (Lk1:48). Mary's intercession for us (NB: to Jesus, and Jesus to God) is not foreign or pagan, but biblical (Jn2:3; Lk1:38). Mary is the queen of apostleship, and Jesus initially coronated her at the foot of the Cross (Jn19:26-27)

7. Some are just jealousy that the Catholic Church was started by Christ Himself, the church has never been bad in anyway, but some popes 8 out of 266 were

notably bad (which states 78.72% of papacy is undoubtedly Godly pleasing). God told Israelites that He will choose kings for them but stipulated that He will make them undergo hard times because they have requested a king (1Sam8:10-18). The followers of Christ were initially called 'the followers of the way'(Acts22:4), then one of the church fathers (St Ignatius of Antioch) said the church is growing, united and is CATHOLIC (meaning is universal)in AD107, wow! the name Catholic is very old, moreover, St Ignatius is said to be a student of John the Revelator by historians, and one of the children who were brought to Jesus (Mk10:13), And he is the one who listed the Sacraments which are kept by the CATHOLICS,

8. We have to accept the Holiness surrounding the Catholic Church, everyday in Mass we pray to God for our pope to be Holy (as he is a human being who may fall to sin)that's why Christ has kept His Church under structured leadership, that is why all leaders of the world are drawn to its light (Isaiah60:1-3), good or bad they want to hide under this light, and She will reign on earth (1Cor6:1-3) even on hard times of tribulations when the devil wants to take control as it is happening now (1Jn2:18-27).

9. The Holy Catholic Church is not static, as we are led and taught by the Holy Spirit according to Jesus' words (Jn14:16), She is taught day after day by the Holy Spirit (Jn14:26), Even some saints in the Church prophesied on some bad popes who would ascend to the Holy place, so now, one will agree with that Papal seat is the hottest seat in the universe that every king would like to see themselves there, but unfortunately it is of no world origin but of Christ's. (Jn21:17; Mt16:19; Mt18:18; Lk21:14-15)

Jack John on April 11, 2012:

In any garden there are weeds, these stories of weeds in the catholic religion has some truth, look at to days sins of priests, people take vows, I took vows to my wife, I believe in Honor, Integrity, if you can not keep your vows, do not say you will and break them later and say sorry

I 'am only Human.

Comar on April 09, 2012:

Wow it has been 3 years since this article was posted but here I am posting my comment. I was born and raised catholic RCC that is, and reading your post was somehow an eye opener for me, I always believe that it's really hard to be a good man and yes its a daily battle to be good that is why as a RCC we pray for our

ministers, friends and family because we are aware that evil is lurking and like a wolf ready to attack anytime.. I guess other religions are just expecting too much of us ;) its either they envy us for being catholic or they hate us for being catholic or maybe they though that to be a catholic is to be like Jesus free of sins. Yes pope maybe the church leader but he is still Christ follower and like Peter who denied Jesus and Judas who even sold Jesus it cannot be helped that Human like popes is susceptible to sins as well, still you just sow the peak of the iceberg of what RCC is all about 10 out 266 you are basically judging Catholic because of 10 out 266 some may say its not with the numbers but hey how do you look a glass of water that only in the middle? is it half empty or half full? your answer to this question would normally answer how your judge life ;)

Fig Tree on April 07, 2012:

Please 'ram', 'free masons'? I've heard of passing the buck; but passing the free masons! Pick on the real culprits!

Alan on March 16, 2012:

The Roman church was not started by Jesus. In those ancient times, groups of faithful people caused the liturgies and eucharist to begin to appear. Then the early Romans usurped it as their own and created an evil hierarchy to run it. Even so, the Anglicans later are the ones who finally got it right by ditching all the man-made stuff, like popes, cardinals, praying to Mary, having patron saints and icons, etc. Today's RC congregations may have come upon their belief innocently, but it's the hierarchy that has ALWAYS been the bane of the Roman Catholics denomination.

Freeman on February 29, 2012:

If this post was to be about the good popes, i wonder if it would generate enough comments spanning over a year. It is sad that we are quick to critisis even when we do not have a single idea what it is like to have lived or be in the shoes of those we damn to hell. Sadly enough, the world today crave 4 bad news and is quick to see the evil, while turning a blind eye on the good. There is more to the catholic faith, doctrines or creed today that transends the actions or inactions of its few ''bad popes''. ''Peter you are the rock and upon you shall I build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail''. Those are not my words but Jesus himself.

Archangel777Catholic on February 21, 2012:

Haha! A bunch of heretics are (falsely) accusing Pius XII of being a racist!

Hello?! Martin Luther was anti-Semitic! He is also thought to have been a schizophrenic by many unbiased modern psychologists, etc. What a way to start a church!

At least Christ started mine!

Catholicism for the win!

gilthe on February 06, 2012:

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Matthew 7:1-3

LOve on February 01, 2012:

Tell you what..... Why don't we just concentrate on being GOOD

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firerev on January 26, 2012:

Jesus founded His church in the Apostle's...not Pope's, miters,rings,coronations and thrones. "for such is the Kingdom of heaven"...reference to humble children.

from a priest and chaplain

tikboy_tm (zaldy) ph on December 30, 2011:

No one is perfect and by admitting it we agree that no religion is perfect. Even on the Apostles that Jesus lead on his time, they commit mistakes (sin). Peter the Apostles who considered by Catholic first Pope also have sinned against Jesus. For those bible readers, you are also familiar of Paul rebuking Peter because he sinned with the congregation. So I cant find anything wrong with this article. Maybe Pious XII is "Hitler's Pope" just to be an undercover to save life or maybe not. We really do not know what is with him at that time. We just face it that somehow he maybe a bad pope in that area but also a good pope in other area. He will be judged thru fact by history but he whether he is bad or good, God will judge him. That's it! I

look this as a positive for Catholics or in any other religion. Religion cant save you but your faith thru God's grace. And also that the Catholic Church was tested thru fire. Pope are people like us and every people has his bad and good side. Dont be self righteous guys by being defensive. Read but dont be affected its not your soul, it is their. Be humble enough that we all sinned. :)

Charles on December 09, 2011:

Haters, most of you. Sad.

And of course we are all sinners, so putting faith in a man, or knocking a faith because of a man is just ignorant.

(please don't be offended by the word ignorant)

mygarage on December 08, 2011:

Some interesting opinions, we will all be judged eventually (except of course for the athiest, I suppose he is pleading "no contest"). I do wrestle with the idea that those in leadership positions should be given any more esteem than the common man. It seems to end badly when people possess alot of power. Even the power to publish any random post, though I must say, this was an enjoyable one.

Take comfort in the proverb "the good man will receive what he hopes for, and the wicked man will get what he fears most."

seth on November 08, 2011:

poooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo
ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooop

norm on October 28, 2011:

any time that humans collect together,some will do the wrong thing.examples are plentiful in politics,religion,commerce etc.we do receive benefits from every collective human activity.it is reasonable and i think logical to recognize the benefit of collective human effort when the benefit is evident.it is wise to weed out evil but ungrateful and unjust to ignore the good.

chiniel on October 17, 2011:

The pope is not god the pope is human so don't worship them and they also die not like jesus they don't have powers of god their power comes from evil only god can

forgive ..

Brian D on September 06, 2011:

i thought this was a great post :) it's nice to see some light shed upon the horrible things the catholic church has done in it's two thousand years of existence. i only wish there was a little more detail put into how many millions of people have been murdered in it's name, or how many boys have been molested by it's leaders.

alas, as there obviously is no god, really it's all a waste to even argue which leader was the worst. when your raised to believe the ridiculous fairy tales derived before science, you have little hope of having any objective, open minded thoughts. i mean it makes sense, look around the world, you can make anyone believe anything if you repetitively tell them it over and over from birth. hence the wealth of silly beliefs that still exist across the globe.

it's sad to think that people still believe in the astro-theological hybrid of the bible, open your eyes- watch zeitgeist. anyway, if i can offend just one person by this post i will have done my job :)

Sean on September 06, 2011:

jenine and Katie are not historians. In fact they only prove they are ready to believe anything evil about the Catholic Fatih. There comments are laced with lines found in newspapers and magazines which have decided to demonize Catholicism because of its stance against abortion and homozexuality.

The original flub who wrote this page amazingly left off John XII and Benedict X, two of the most evil and disgusting popes ever.He mentioned nothing of "the Pornocracy" and the century long "Rule of the Harlots" in recard to papal politics in the 900s. Apparently his sect's antiCatholic website missed them also.

Apparently the silly women, Jenine and Katie, have never read Catholic histories of the papacy. We're a lot tougher on the bad apples than this jackanapes who wrote this, ladies.

Oh, Jenine, one more thing. Just because you were once a member of the Catholic Church does not mean that you have a doctorate in systematic theology or in Church History. Leaving the Church only proves that you didn't understand what little you were taught. And, I promise, anything else you write defending yourself and denouncing Catholic belief comes only from the present sect of which you are

now a member and has no basis in actual fact.

I am ashamed of you, Jenine, and you, Katie, and everyone else who praised this poorly researched and leering collection of half-truths. lies and smears.

gerard2929 on June 11, 2011:

catholic church is not the true church of God. The God Almighty will not let bad people lead his church.

Katie on April 03, 2011:

I enjoyed reading the run-down on the 'Bad Popes'. It was crafted carefully and even humorously.

I was stunned at the comments of some people deciding that Pious XII shouldn't be on the list because he is being considered for Sainthood! Seems to me that the Catholic church might want to change their definition of what a 'Saint' is. I don't think that people have to be perfect, but certainly not racists. Another example is Mother Theresa. I believe she was a good person who tried hard to help people, except for one thing. She is an example of showing how piety is a good thing, while at the same time having a good deal of money that could have been used to alleviate suffering. I guess helping people always has been defined by suffering. I seem to remember Jesus multiplying the fish and the bread for the wedding feast. If Jesus had adopted Mother Theresa's ideas, He would have walked away and boasted that is good to leave the poor to their suffering.

Catholics don't seem to be able to reason. Just where in the scriptures are we told to call a man "Holy Father" or that any man can live vicariously as Christ on Earth. Now that's blasphemy because it looks to me that many of the Pope's weren't even basically honest. All those mistresses. Did the Catholics do away fornication directives from scripture? That's the only logical conclusion I can honestly come to.

I leave them to their corruption.

johnny on March 30, 2011:

the catholic church has and always will be rotten to the core. the reformation was a good start at breaking the power of rome in europe, but much more needs to be done.

pedophilia is and has been an integral part of catholicism.

woe betide those who follow its twisted creeds.

SAG13 on February 26, 2011:

P.s Here is a good Blogspot which many links for personal research: linhttp://popepiusxiiandthejews.blogspot.com/ks to prove the point that Pius X11 was a Saintly Pope: and here is an excellent book to read if you can find a copy Pius Xll by Halecki 1951. One will read the details of Eugenio Pacelli's Crusade of Charity, The 5 Point Peace Plan, the efforts of the Vatican to secure peace alongside President Roosevelt, The Vatican Information Service with 645 persons aiding the reuniting of people all over Europe, Papal Soup kitchens, Food for Children of Europe and the Far East, Papal requests to American Catholics to provide food aid, Papal emergency ration stations, 15,000 Jews having taken refuge in Castel Gandolfo,the Pope's personal residence,Papal request for food help to Spain and Portugal, Catholic Hospitals open to all in need without charge,the relief Caravans that followed behind Allied advances to aid those in concentration camps and aiding more than 2 million, and

the behind the scenes efforts of Papal Nuncios.

SAG13 on February 26, 2011:

Pope Pius Xll being considered a bad Pope, is a bad opinion, to say the least! This Pope is a candidate for Sainthood, and no doubt he will make it, because he was a living Saint to millions of Jews that escaped the Holocost because of his noble and smart efforts! He was NOT called Hitler's Pope (that's a late 20th century smeer!), quite the opposite infact, he was called the Jewish Pope! This is a partial list, well documented, of his tireless efforts to first stop WWll and then to help all people escape the cruelty of Hitlers henchmen. 1. He had all the convents and monesteries of Italy take in Jews and to give them habits in order that they would not be detected. 2. He had false Passports printed and passed around to Jews for them to escape Europe. 3. He asked Catholic Countries to take them in and when they didn't because of anti-semintism, he had new passports issued documenting that the owners of the passports were baptized Catholics even though this was a deliberate lie, 4. He organized the largest social network in ther world, staffed by 1000's of volunteers from various countries, to help find missing persons before the war ended, but most importantly, after the war. 5. He desperately tried to intervene in political discussions to help staff off WWll but the United States,specifically, refused the Vatican any say or presence in any public or private meetings. 6. All Catholic Churches in Germany and Italy were ordered to preach

against Hitler directly and told that there was no room for cowardice. I recommend that whoever is interested inthis topic,search for books written in the late 1940's and 50's to get an accurate picture of what really happened as I did! Even the Head Rabbi of Rome was so humbled and grateful for all Pius Xll did for the Jewish people, he actually converted to Catholicism! There is a cementary named in honor of Pius Xll in Israel, so loved was he by Goldy Mier. And one more footnote....it is a little known fact that Pius Xll personaly contacted all the Catholic countries and requested that they vote YES in the UN referendumon for Israel being given to the Jewish people. The list goes on and on....

aa on February 07, 2011:

Read the book " The Devil In The Church !" then give your comments!

Janine Gullo on January 21, 2011:

I would first like too give cudoos to the person who wrote this page. The information is interesting and insightful with a dash of humor throne in- Bravo. I don't believe it was yourintention to be controversial but, as history shows us nothing incites people more than good old religion.

It is amazing to me that even after two years people are still reading this and posting comments but, it saddens me when, I read replies from individuals that are hostile in tone, arrogant in demeanor; acting as if correcting a spelling mistake detracts from the validity of your claim. It would be a more harmonious world if we all had the same beliefs; however, it would be an extremely boring world as well. Unfortunately, just because we hear a point of view we do not like that does not make it wrong.In fact the name "Hitler's Pope,"(The Secret History of Pius XII) is the title of a book written 1999 by John Cromwell which, only revisted an assertion made by many historian and scholars.The first to assert this position was a German playwright Rolf Hochhuth, in the "Deputy." I could continue with many others who are well documented in holding the same opinion but, instead I'll eplain why they do.

I will start by saying,I was raised as a Catholic so I am very familiar with chapter and verse.I love history and study it as a passion and as a student so, I am aware of how and why religion was created.Anyone who truly believe's in something stands up for what they believe in. This fact is especially true if that deep held belief is being attacked. It is human nature for a person to become defensive in their action when they feel persecuted. Case in point, some of the posts above.This holds true

when someone speaks out for something you don't believe in.

Jesus, appeared in the temple courts,he sat down to teach them.The scribes and Pharisees brought him a woman accused of adultery.They wanted Jesus, to pass judgment on her and the law according to the Moses,is that she should be stoned to death. Jesus said,"He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone"... John 8:3

Or, when Jesus went into the temple and became enraged to see money changers and merchant in his father's house. Jesus responds by, turning over the tables and tells them to leave. This are all examples, of Jesus's expectation of a righteous man standing up and being heard against an injustice.

Pius XII, didn't stand up! In fact, he stayed silent concerning Hitler and the massacre of the European Jews. No man or women should ever stand silent in the prensence of injustice and claim to know God.“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” Martin Luther King, Jr

When I say, "Silent," I mean Pius XII DID NOT- speak out clearly and definitively against Hitler's treatment and killing of Jewish fellow human beings.You know,like they do about abortion. His silence is a recorded fact and so is the fact that he served as the papal nuncio to Germany his entire career.As far as the claims that Pius XII save 700,000 Jews(by the way, that number has changed as much as the Vatican's excuses as to why pediophile priest were left unpunished and in position.)the documents that supposedly supported these fuzzy fact; brought to light by Pope John PaulII in 1998 are being called into question.To be clear,the documents authenticity and validity are being questioned until futher investigation.

The Vatican,itself as a matter of record only saved and sheltered 2,000 Jews at the most. To be clear,the Vatican is a financially self sustaining entity, with is governed and answers only to itself.(kind of like the Federal Reserve)except,the Bank of the Vatican.(scratch the fed. analogy) So, if someone wants access to documents, wishes to conduct and investigation or wishes to try a criminal for say, a sex crime they maybe haurboring behind Vatican walls, they can say no. That's That's.

I could go on and on with facts but, the only fact that really matters is everyone adds something to the converstion. People are put on this earth to learn from one another. A piece of information here, and there and collectively we become

smarter and better people.We may not always like the truth but, we can prove it! Proof is being able to go to several unrelated independent scholarly sources and finding information to back up your claims, Instead of going to one book written by the people your investigating.That's Mumbo Jumbo, it sounds foolish and fanatical. To the author, You know you wrote something interesting and engaging when you piss people off. I loved it!

I believe in God and Jesus Christ but, I do not believe being blind or illogical are mutually exclusive to that belief.

Robert on November 30, 2010:

I have read everything on this site and i have read all the comments. Were there bad popes in the history of the catholic church...yes. Is this list of the bad popes historically accurate. No. So we had maybe 10 bad popes in the history of the Catholic Church. 10 out of 266 is not bad. The Roman Catholic Church was founded by Jesus Christ himself. Knowing all, would he start a church that he knew would fall. No.. Did he know that man within the church would fall. Yes... Our own human weakness causes us to sin. I had a bad teacher in highschool who taught us the wrong information. Does that mean all teachers of that subject or even that school are wrong? No. look into the Roman Catholic Church. Find out What we really believe in. Find out that we worship Only one God. to post articles and comments of things you have never researched is irresponsible. I will continue to pray for each soul that reads these inaccurate non-historical mumbo jumbo. If you would like to find out more about the Actual truth, look into the Catholic church at www.Catholic.com

Emmanuel on November 26, 2010:

I now belive the 3rd wizard rule whice says that the greatest harm arises from the best intention. Many think that they are following christ without knowing that they are right behind satan. The you truth is that roman catholics are not christians. Their doctrine opposes what the bible says. In the bible jesus says that he is the way (john 10) but to them mary is the way. Now i will like to ask,jesus and mary, who love sinner more? If you are a catholic you better repent.

ram on October 05, 2010:

I think most of this is based on exaggerations rather than on facts. Of course there were Popes who had succumed to temptations and were not saintly, but the role of freemasons cannot be ignored in felicitating this bad phase

ruping on September 29, 2010:

all of this sounds like the 10 bucnh of Anti-Christ! isn't it?

Saint Keith on June 30, 2010:

I should add, how could the Lord stand behind a church, who's early "missionary outreach" led to the wholesale slaughter of tens of thousands who did not follow it's doctrine. The same spirit that drives today's radical Islamist infected the church for centuries.

Do you really think the Lord would continue to support such an organization? Only the faith of it's members has maintained it. As the Lord said would happen, there has been a falling away from the truth, and we are experiencing a spiritual famine.

Saint Keith on June 29, 2010:

You all miss the point. To think that the authority of Lord Jesus, could devolve through such corrupt leadership, and sustain any man or organization claiming to be God's representative, is ludicrous.

How can anyone give credence to and sustain the doctrine and dogma dictated by such debauched men? By being ignorant of the truth and emotionally supporting their faith.

I respect their vehement defense of their faith, and I believe the Lord will bless them for it, but I believe He has long ago walked away from the carcass of their religion.

Mary on May 23, 2010:

I cannot believe the kind of anti-catholic rubbish like the above about pius xii is allowed to be so freely published. Most recent scholarship on the matter puts him clearly in a courageous light. Do not forget that some 3 million catholics were killed in concentrations camps, many of them Catholic clergy who had spoken in defence of the Jews. The Dutch clergy in particular were imprisioned and killed en masse for protesting the treatment of the Jews. How come anti-catholic sentiment and bigotry is not as villified as anti-semitism?

Robert Casey on December 23, 2009:

I cannot believe that Pius XII is even on a list of "bad popes." I hope there is more

basis for the others on the list. Certainly, Pius XII does not belong on the list. He will soon be Sainted.

1103 lkopfkpd on January 21, 2009:

wtFFFF!!!

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wtFFFF!!!

leo on December 06, 2008:

Questioning the role of the Catholic Church during the time of the Second World War is a liberty everybody should be able to enjoy. However, calling Pope Pius XII a "famous drinking buddy of fascist leaders everywhere" merely weeakens your position, not the Church's, because it is simply a statement that is utterly wrong. The fact that Pius XII was nicknamed "Hitler's Pope" also doesn't add to the equation because while on the one hand we are missing the phenomenological evidence, there are, on the other hand, enough people who know that there's lots of dough to be made with a catchy title and a bit of anti-Catholic or anti-clerical bias. Claiming that Pope Pius XII was a "noted anti-semite and racist" finally puts you in the corner of the "I write history the way it serves my needs"-gang. Also: His name was Pius, not Pious. I would let you get away with that but against the background of your lack of historical accuracy, it is too interesting to neglect.

Brendan Roberts from Auckland on November 15, 2008:

Hi ProMom

Please check out my post regarding Pope Pius XII below. In brief:

Pinchas Lapide, the Israeli historian and diplomat to Milan in his book "Three Popes and the Jews" claimed that Pius XII was instrumental in saving at least 700,000 Jews. But the fact that such a leader of the Church helped saved Jews does not stop there. The actions of the other leaders of the Church must not be discounted. Rabbi David Dalin, a Jewish scholar uncovered fascinating truths regarding the actions of the Church during the merciless mass slaughter by the Nazis. While the Italian Jews were not deported until 1943 Rabbi Dalin reveals that Cardinals, Bishops, and the laity sheltered Jews after this time. As for the Pope, he opened the doors of the Vatican to hundreds and 3,000 were sheltered at the Pope's summer residence, Castel Gandolfo.

https://hubpages.com/religion-philosophy/Was-The-W...

God bless

Brendan

www.godfact.com

daria369 on November 14, 2008:

This is an awesome post, I really enjoyed it!

Besides, you could easily write a spicy book on every one of these guys... ;)

Original Link: https://discover.hubpages.com/religion-philosophy/Ten-Bad-Popes